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May 2008

It is a busy time here at PNS as we enjoy our last days of preschool! Our days are filled with special visitors, field trips, picnics, caterpillars and chrysalises and painted lady butterflies, springtime artwork, surprises (Mother's Day, you know) and doing our favorite things one last time.

It must be the unusually cold and damp spring that makes it hard to believe that our last week of school (May 12-16) is really here! My heart is always very full at this time of the year as I consider all the fun we have in these last days and reflect on all that has happened over the year. I am so grateful for the amazing collaboration between teachers and families as we have worked and played together. On behalf of the entire staff here at PNS I want to thank you for sharing your children with us and for the many ways you support our program- by being Helping Parents in the classroom, the delicious snacks you share, your faithful tuition payments, your help as we have traveled outside these walls into the neighborhood on field trips and welcomed special guests into our school, and your words of encouragement. As I say every year, **you** are your child's first and most important teacher and it has been a **joy** and a **privilege** to partner with you in this early learning experience!

We also acknowledge our board of directors for their work and support throughout the year. We extend our heartfelt thanks to outgoing board members Pete & Randi McNally and Kirk & Shawna Johnson for their service to the board and PNS. We welcome Jason & Courtney Palmer and Adam & Megan Claypool to the 2008-2009 board of directors.

We also join in wishing Cheryl Giudicessi, Shelly Cook and Julie Linn all the best as they retire. Between them they have given a combined 43 years of loving and nurturing something in the neighborhood of 1000 young children here at PNS! They have done so much to make the program at PNS what it is today and we can hardly imagine this place without them. We look forward to inviting them back occasionally to substitute and hope they know they are ALWAYS welcome to stop by and play. ☺

If your child is registered for a class at PNS next fall, you should have received a packet of forms and information in his/her cubbie. **All forms** (with the exception of the physical- you can return that anytime before school starts) **and remaining fees are due by June 2**. You may return them to the PNS office or mail them in.

To those of you moving on from our program, we extend our warmest good wishes for the future. I am always amazed at how life's experiences can cause paths to cross again and so we never say goodbye! To those of you continuing on, we look forward to being in touch over the summer and seeing you again in the fall.



Plymouth Nursery School provides for the social, emotional, cognitive and physical development of each child in a safe and nurturing environment that promotes learning through play, creative expression and parental involvement.

Thanks to all of you who returned our end-of-the-year survey. If you have not returned it and would still like to, you can drop it in the basket outside the office. Extra copies are available on the cart. We value your feed-back!

Summer camp- children enrolled in our summer camps will receive a postcard with more details in the near future. **There is one opening the week of June 2-5 for children completing Pre-K.** Call Jan if you are interested or if you plans have changed!

Lost and Found- There is a very cute stuffed bear in a pink leotard that someone is surely missing! I also have a child's silver bracelet with a couple of charms in the PNS office.

Wish List!

We are often asked if there are things we need here at PNS. We are always adding books to our library and replacing those that wear out. Donations are always welcome (this is a special way to commemorate your child's birthday). A wish list of hardcover books & CDs we would like can be found by the bulletin board outside the PNS office.

Thank you for your support of our Scholastic book orders this year. We have added many books to our PNS library and acquired some wonderful classroom equipment and furniture using the Bonus Points we receive through your orders! You may wish to take advantage of the **Scholastic Warehouse Sale, May 9-23, 4241 NW Urbandale Dr., 50323.**

Our "Empties For Cash" box is full again! Thank you for your support of this ongoing fundraiser that has allowed us to add some books to our library. The box will be outside the office all summer long, so feel free to continue to drop off empty cartridges if you are in the neighborhood! If that is not convenient and you accumulate some over the summer, be sure to bring them in when school begins again!

Looking ahead

The 2008-2009 school year will begin the week of September 2-5!

Congratulations to the Lawler/Smith family- Lydia (MT p.m. 3s) has a baby sister, Jamison; and to Nora LaPorte (MTW a.m. 3s) & her mom, Heather, whose pictures are on the cover of the May issue of DM Moms!

Scholastic Parent & Child will be available all summer. If you are in the neighborhood, feel free to stop by and pick up a copy!

If you are cleaning closets over the summer, we can always use child sized cowboy boots, rain boots, fancy shoes, sport coats, interesting hats, career related clothing or anything else you might think would be fun for dramatic play!

Summer brings opportunities for new activity! The choices are many and varied- everything from Backyard Wildlife at Polk County Conservation to "Peanut Butter & Puccini" with the Des Moines Metro Opera! Check out the postings outside the PNS office. In addition to the many camps that are offered around the area, places like Living History Farms and the Historical Building offer "one time" activities for families and young children. Check out your area Parks and Recreation schedule and of course your local library. Taking a walk through the Art Center is a great way to spend a hot summer afternoon- see the art through your child's eyes!

Make your own bubble solution:

Fill a gallon jug with water. Add 2/3 cup of dishwashing liquid (Dawn works well) and 1 tablespoon of glycerine. Mix the solution well and let it sit for 24 hours before using.

Enjoy the summer!